

IPW



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 4329.3256

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| |) | |
| HIROYUKI OKA ET AL. |) | Group Art Unit: 2141 |
| |) | |
| Application No.: 10/790,865 |) | Examiner: Unknown |
| |) | |
| Filed: March 3, 2004 |) | Confirmation No.: 3121 |
| |) | |
| For: INFORMATION APPARATUS AND |) | |
| MAIL CONTROL METHOD |) | |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.
Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English document, an English language version of a European Search Report, dated January 7, 2005, from the European Patent Office issued in a European counterpart application citing these documents and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. In addition, an English-language abstract of International Publication No. WO 02/096077 is attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: _____

2/9/05

By: _____

Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

FEB 09 2005

IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A-010

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Application Number | 10/790,865 |
| Filing Date | March 3, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | Hiroyuki Oka |
| Art Unit | 2141 |
| Examiner Name | Unknown |
| Attorney Docket Number | 4329.3256 |

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|-------|---|----|---|
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 |
|-------|---|----|---|

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | | US-2002/0147988 A1 | 10/10/02 | Nakano | |
| | | US-2002/0104095 A1 | 8/1/02 | Nguyen et al. | |
| | | US-2002/0073435 A1 | 6/13/02 | Handelman | |
| | | US-6,067,561 | 5/23/00 | Dillon | |
| | | US- | | | |
| | | US- | | | |

Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation ⁶ |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | | WO 02/096077 A1 | 11/28/02 | France Telecom | | |
| | | EP 1 164 790 A2 | 12/19/01 | Sony Corporation | | |
| | | EP 1 067 741 A1 | 1/10/01 | Canal + Société Anonyme | | |
| | | EP 0 793 387 A2 | 9/3/97 | Kabushiki Kaisha Toshiba | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | | European Search Report issued in European Application No. 04005000, dated January 7, 2005 | |
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|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.